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S. 002

GERMAN PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Munich, this 20.11.2003

Telephone: (089)

Applicant/Owner:

Your ref: G 22256-lem1

German Patent and Trademark Office · 80297 Munich

Your request dated: 1.4.2003
as to search according to §7 Utility Model Law

Please Indicate file number and applicant/owner
in connection with all petitions and payments

File number: 203 05 230.7

(Name and address of representatives)
Patentanwälte
Magenbauer & Kollegen
Plochinger Strasse 109
73730 Esslingen

Search Report

A. Classification of the object of the application according to the International Patent Classification (IPC)

IPC 07
G 01 F 1/36
G 01 F 1/44

B. Fields of Search

Class/Group	Examiner	Patent Department
G 01 F 1/36	Dr. Dieter Konnerth	52.
G 01 F 1/44		

The search was made in the following databases:

Name of the database and of the host
DEPATIS

The search in the German Patent and Trademark Office is based on the patent literature of the following countries and organizations:

Germany (DE,DD), Austria, Switzerland, France, Great Britain, USA, Japan (Abstracts), former USSR (Abstracts), European Patent Office, WIPO

Classes/Groups which are specified under section A but are not explicitly mentioned under section B have either been considered by an IPC-covering database search or serve only for documentation and information purposes. In classes/groups which are specified under section B but are not mentioned under section A it has been searched by obtaining the result as specified under section C.

C. Result of the Search for Documents

Cat.	Documents found	Explanations	Relevant to Claims	IPC/Places of Discovery
X	DE 34 08 779 C2	figure 4	1,12	DEPATIS
X	DE 100 46 618 A1	figure 1-4, claims 1-4, 8, 11-13, 17	1-3, 5, 11, 18, 19	DEPATIS
Y	DE 35 05 833 A1	figure 1	1,2	DEPATIS
Y	AT 98 883	figure 1	1,8	DEPATIS
Y	US 55 33 549	fig.1-3, with description	1,2, 5, 11, 12 13, 18, 19	DEPATIS

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D. The following literature and citations are not present at the German Patent and Trademark Office:

The search cannot be directed to the prior art mentioned by the applicant himself/itself which is not present at the German Patent and Trademark Office. If it is intended to file a request for examination according to §44 Patent Law the applicant is requested to deposit the said literature with the examination file.

E. Date of Termination of the Search

17.11.2003

Completeness of the Search:

There is no warranty for the completeness of the discovery of the relevant documents and for the correctness of the indicated categories (§43 paragraph 7 sentence 1 Patent Law and §7 paragraph 2 Utility Model Law, respectively, in connection with §43 paragraph 7 sentence 1 Patent Law).

Dispatch date of the search report

Enclosures: 5

Patent Department
Search Head Office
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Explanations to Section C. Result of the Search for Documents

Column: Cat(egory)

It means:

- X: Documents by which novelty or presence of an inventive activity (§43 Patent Law) / of an inventive step (§7 Utility Model Law) is put into question if taken alone
- Y: Documents by which presence of an inventive activity (§43 Patent Law) / of an inventive step (§7 Utility Model Law) is put into question if combined with other documents
- A: Generally as to prior art, technological background
- P: Documents published in the priority interval
- T: Later published, not colliding documents which are relevant to the theory of the filed invention and which may be useful for a better understanding of the filed invention or which are showing that thoughts or circumstances on which the invention is based might be wrong
- E: Earlier applications according to §3 paragraph 2 Patent Law (in connection with searches according to §43 Patent Law) / earlier patent or utility model applications according to §15 Utility Model Law (in connection with searches according to §7 Utility Model Law)
- D: Documents which are already cited in the patent application (in connection with searches according to §43 Patent Law) / documents which are already cited in the application or in the utility model (in connection with searches according to §7 Utility Model Law)
- L: Documents cited for particular reasons, for example with regard to the publication date of a reference or when there are doubts with regard to the priority.

Column: Explanations

The explanations and relevant portions specified in the search procedure are mentioned in this column separately from the cited document. The abbreviations and symbols used upon citation of a document mean the following:

- Publication ("Veröff."): Publication date of a document within the priority interval
- =: Documents which are based on the same application of origin ("patent families") or to which reports or abstracts are referred to
- When classes/groups are mentioned without citation of documents the following symbol means:
"--": Nothing discovered

Column: Relevant to Claims

Here the claims are cited relating to the remarks mentioned in the column "Explanations"

Remarks to Patent Literature

The cited patent literature can be looked into in the presentation halls of the German Patent and Trademark Office, 80331 Munich, Zweibrückenstrasse 12 or 10969 Berlin, Gitschiner Strasse 97; German patent specifications, patent specifications laid out for inspection or laid-open publications and partly even patent literature of other countries also in the patent information centers. A list of these patent information centers may be obtained from the German Patent and Trademark Office as well as from some private companies.

Online searches as to patent publications from all over the world which are present in the data resources of the internal German patent information system DEPATIS of the Office are possible free of charge under <http://www.depatisnet.net>.